



2014 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

presented by Mount Diablo State Park,
Mount Diablo Astronomical Society (MDAS),
Mount Diablo Observatory Association

DATE 2014	Program Starts	SPECIAL EVENT AND TOPIC
Mar 22	7:00 PM	STARS AND BUTTERFLIES: How are stars like butterflies? Where did the stars come from? Discover the lives of stars as you tour the telescopes. BONUS: Get ready for the Apr 15 th Lunar Eclipse
Apr 26	7:30 PM	GALAXIES AND THE DISTANT UNIVERSE: Help build a model of the universe ... and our place in it. See distant galaxies in the telescopes.
May 31	7:30 PM	SATURN'S RINGS, JUPITER'S MOONS, MARS & MERCURY: Here's your chance to see FOUR planets PLUS our Moon through the telescopes. Make and take home a Pocket Solar System and imagine what it would be like to live on other worlds.
Jun 21	8:00 PM	SEARCH FOR ALIEN WORLDS: What will the first alien life we discover likely look like? Explore where weird life exists on Earth. What does that tell us about life elsewhere in the galaxy? Which stars have planets where life might exist?
Jul 5	7:30 PM	EXPLORE OUR SUN and MOON: Arrive at 7:30 to safely view the Sun through telescopes. How can the Sun affect cell phones and create auroras? Why does the Sun have spots? PLUS: Earth's Lost Rock: our Moon
Aug 2	7:30 PM	ROCKS & ICE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM: Comets, meteors, and asteroids: how are they different, how are they related? Hold real meteorites – rocks from space – in your hand.
Aug 30	7:00 PM	OUR PLACE IN OUR GALAXY: Build a mental model of our Milky Way Galaxy – and our place in it. Tour the telescopes to trek through our galaxy.
Sep 27	6:30 PM	SUPERNOVA! Why do some stars explode? Which star is next? Would you exist without supernovae? Take home a sky map of stars will explode as supernovae. BONUS: Get ready for the eclipses in October!
Oct 25	5:30 PM	WHY EARTH? Why does Earth have abundant life, but nowhere else in our Solar System? How many planets like Earth are probably out there in our Galaxy? How are scientists finding them?
2015 Mar 21	7:00 PM	First astronomy program of 2015 – mark your calendar!

Program: Participate in hands-on astronomy activities, followed by supervised observing through the many different telescopes of MDAS members to view the Moon, planets, stars, galaxies and more.

Time: Evening, beginning about an hour before sunset and lasting up to 11:00 p.m. **Plan to enter the park gate at least 45 minutes before the program starts.**

Where: Lower Summit parking lot of Mt. Diablo State Park

Cost: The astronomy program is free; there is a park entry fee.

Bring: Kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperature can drop significantly), snacks, water. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red cellophane or red cloth.



Leaving: The Park gates will be locked and visitors will be able to leave the summit and **exit the park only by escorted caravans through the North Gate** a few times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at various intervals during the program and visitors should only leave with these escorts.

NOTE: Astronomy Program is weather permitting (including "High Fire Danger"). Rain cancels. Go to: <http://www.mdas.net> and click on **Event Calendar** or call Mt. Diablo State Park – 925-837-2525.

Mount Diablo Astronomical Society: www.mdas.net
A proud member of the NASA Night Sky Network: <http://nightskynetwork.net>
Email: outreachinfo@mdas.net